CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES IN FEEDER CATTLE PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

U.S. beef cattle and calf losses in feeder cattle production are estimated for 1975 from a USDA survey to indicate historical trends in cattle and calf losses. Major loss categories were disease, predators, theft, inclement weather, and unidentified causes. Of those feeder calves lost to production, 85 percent of the losses occurred before birth and 15 percent between birth and weaning based on January 1 inventories. Since 1950, annual average cattle losses have been 1.7 percent in comparison with calf losses of 6.4 percent.

Keywords: Cattle loss, calf loss, feeder cattle production, feeder calf production.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The planning and conduct of this research have been a cooperative effort by ESCS personnel, especially Roy Van Arsdall, Henry Gilliam, Calvin Boykin, Jack Trierweiler, Jim Nix, Ron Gustafson, and Bob Otto of the Commodity Economics Division. All data were collected by the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS), which is now part of ESCS.

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GLOSSARY

Feeder cattle production: The production of beef calves and yearlings prior to the time they are placed on feed for the slaughter market.

Beef cattle: Nondairy cattle 500 pounds and over.

Beef calves: Nondairy calves that have not been weaned.

Calving rate (percentage): Calves born alive as a percentage of the January 1 inventory of breeding cows and heifers.

Weaning rate (percentage): Calves weaned as a percentage of the January 1 inventory of breeding cows and heifers. Weaning is usually 7 to 10 months after calves are born.

Cattle loss rate (percentage): Cattle lost as a percentage of January 1 inventories of beef cattle.

Calf loss rate (percentage): Calves lost between birth and weaning as a percentage of calves born alive.

Potential feeder calf production: The number of calves born if each cow in the herd at the start of the breeding season delivers a live calf.

SUMMARY

National beef cattle and calf losses in feeder cattle production for the major cattle regions of the United States were estimated for 1975 from data collected by a Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) survey made in spring 1976. Published numbers provide an indication of historical trends in cattle and calf losses. The following are important findings.

1. The average calving rate (calves born as a percentage of the January 1 breeding cow and bred heifer inventory) was 78 percent for all regions. Rates were highest in the Great Plains, 84 percent, and lowest in the Southeast, 73 percent.

2. Calves lost between birth and weaning as a proportion of calves born was 5.5 percent nationwide. Highest calf losses, 9.1 percent, were in the Great Plains. The Southwest experienced lowest calf losses, 3.6 percent.

3. Cattle losses were low, averaging 1.9 percent of January 1 inventories. The Southeast had highest losses, 2.7 percent, followed by the North Central region, 2.2 percent.

4. A detailed breakdown by cause of loss was not obtained by the survey. Categories identified included predators, disease, theft, and other causes. Disease contributed 39 percent to cattle and calf losses. Other unidentified causes were 50 percent of the total for calves and 57 percent for cattle. Predators caused 11 percent of calf losses but were not a serious problem among cattle. Theft accounted for 4 percent of cattle losses, largely in the West.

5. Reduced production of feeder calves is the result of factors occurring before as well as after birth. About 26 percent of potential feeder calf production was lost by weaning time, leaving a weaning rate of 74 percent for all major production regions. Eighty-five percent of these losses occurred before birth and 15 percent between birth and weaning.

6. The estimated number of cattle and calves lost was about 0.9 million head and 1.8 million head, respectively, or a total of 2.7 million. Based on 1975 national average prices, the value of these losses was $412.3 million.

7. Since 1950, there has been little change in cattle losses as a percentage of reported January 1 inventories; the annual average is 1.7 percent. Calf losses, however, which averaged 6.4 percent for this same period, began climbing after 1968 with the highest loss rate in 1975--9.1 percent of calves born.

CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES IN FEEDER CATTLE PRODUCTION

By

C. Kerry Gee*

INTRODUCTION

Loss of cattle and calves is a persistent hazard and represents real cost in feeder cattle production. Causes of loss are both natural and managerial in origin. Beef animals are subject to mortality from disease, poison plants, inclement weather, predation, and other natural causes. Loss of calf crop may even occur prior to birth through failure of breeding stock to conceive or through abortions. Both cattle and calves may be lost through theft, straying while inadequately confined, or other management-related causes. The objectives of this report are (1) to identify the magnitude of cattle and calf losses in feeder cattle production and (2) to describe historical trends in beef cattle and calf losses.

Except where indicated, data for this report are from a sample survey of 1,922 feeder cattle businesses in the major cattle-producing regions of the continental United States. These regions include the Southeast, North Central, Great Plains, Southwest, and West (fig. 1). Eleven Northeastern States, Hawaii, and Alaska--which produce few beef cattle--are excluded from these regions. Data for 1975 were collected in spring 1976 as part of a comprehensive beef cattle survey.

The population from which the sample was taken included all farms in regions having 20 or more beef breeding cows and which sold feeder calves or yearlings in 1975. At least 90 percent of the cattle and calves sold were required to be produced on the operation. Farms with beef cows that fattened their calves on grain, farms with 50 percent or more of gross sales from dairy products, farms with 50 percent or more of cattle sold as breeding stock, and farms with no breeding cows were excluded from the sample. The population, as defined, encompassed 82 percent of the 1975 U.S. beef cow population, whereas the regions represented 98 percent of beef cattle numbers. Numbers for U.S. beef breeding cows are indicated in table 1 by region.

LOSS ESTIMATES

The survey from which loss estimates were taken was designed to collect a wide variety of data on feeder cattle production. Therefore, available space in the

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U.S. MAJOR BEEF CATTLE REGIONS

Figure 1

Table 1--January 1 inventory of beef breeding cows that have calved, by region, 1975

Geographical area	Beef cows that have calved 1/	Total beef cows
	1,000 head	
Region:		
Southeast	9,368	10,959
North Central	6,041	10,459
Great Plains	7,193	8,413
Southwest	10,477	11,004
West	3,414	3,865
All regions	36,493	44,700
Outside of regions	2/	772
U.S. total	2/	45,472

1/ Assumes feeder cattle operation with herds of 20 head or more where feeder calves and yearlings are produced.
2/ Not surveyed.

Source: Estimates from numbers reported in the field survey, 1969 Census of Agriculture, and from published numbers in Livestock and Meat Statistics, Supplement for 1975, Stat. Bul. No. 522, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., June 1976.

questionnaire for recording specific causes of loss was limited to predatory animals and theft, both of which have been of concern to cattlemen in recent years. Two additional categories, disease and all other losses, completed the inventory. Loss assessments were for calves prior to weaning and for all cattle over 500 pounds.

A complete assessment of calf losses should take into account those prior to birth. In other words, a 100-percent calf crop would occur only if all cows exposed to bulls during the breeding season delivered a live calf. Unfortunately, accurate data on cows exposed to bulls were not collected for all regions in the survey. Therefore, January 1 inventories of breeding cows and heifers have been used as a substitute. This may have tended to overestimate calving percentages as some producers give their cows a pregnancy test in the fall and sell those that are not pregnant before the following January 1 inventory date.

Calving Percentage

Calves born, as a percentage of January 1 breeding cow numbers from the survey population, averaged 78 percent for 1975. This means that for every 100 cows in the January 1 breeding herd, 22 potential calves were not born. Reasons for

this high production loss prior to calving might have included inadequate culling of nonproducing cows before the breeding season, abortions from various causes, faulty cow/bull ratios, bulls with reproductive problems, insufficient feed during the breeding season, or disease among cows or bulls.

There is no necessary correlation between herd size and calving rate, although there are some variations among sizes as shown below:

Herd size (head)	Calves born alive as a percentage of January 1 beef cow inventory
	Percent
Up to 99	79
100- 199	80
200- 499	78
500- 999	81
1,000 and over	76

The largest herds did have the lowest calving rates. This might be expected, as these cattle are usually in range areas and, thus, may not receive care equal to that of smaller herds.

More pronounced calving-rate differences occurred among regions. Lowest percentages were in the Southeast, whereas the highest were in the Great Plains, followed by the North Central region. Regional variations are indicated below:

Feeder cattle region	Calves born alive as a percentage of January 1 beef cow inventory
	Percent
Southeast	73
North Central	81
Great Plains	84
Southwest	76
West	78

Calf Losses Between Birth and Weaning

The period between birth and weaning is critical in feeder cattle production. During the first 6 to 8 weeks of life, calves are especially vulnerable. Disease, inclement weather, predators, and accidents cause many deaths. Once this period is past, few losses occur before weaning.

Calves lost between birth and weaning averaged 5.5 percent of calves born alive on U.S. feeder cattle operations (table 2). The highest losses were in the Great Plains, 9.1 percent of calves born. The Southwest region experienced the lowest losses, averaging 3.6 percent.

Reasons for this wide range in loss rates among regions cannot be identified specifically, as a result of the limited breakdown of losses by cause in the

survey itself. However, it probably reflects differences in environment and management practices. In the West, many calves are born on open pastures and range where extensive losses can occur if weather becomes inclement. Diseases such as scours and pneumonia can also cause heavy losses. Many Great Plains producers reported unusually high losses because of severe blizzards during the early months of 1975.

Table 2--Cattle and calf losses to all causes as a proportion of total inventories, feeder cattle operations, by U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Region	Calves lost between birth and weaning as a percentage of calves born alive	Cattle lost as a proportion of January 1 inventories of cattle 500 pounds or heavier
	Percent	
Southeast	4.1	2.7
North Central	5.6	2.2
Great Plains	9.1	1.5
Southwest	3.6	2.1
West	6.6	1.7
All regions	5.5	1.9

Cattle Losses

Loss estimates were for all beef cattle weighing 500 pounds or over in the survey population. Breeding cows and replacement heifers comprised most of the inventory. Losses among yearlings to be marketed during the year and herd bulls were also included. Throughout all regions, only 1.9 percent of these beef cattle were lost in 1975 (table 2). The loss rate was lowest in the Great Plains, 1.5 percent, and highest in the Southeast, 2.7 percent.

Causes of Cattle and Calf Losses

Although causes of loss were not identified by the survey with the detail one would like, it is nonetheless possible to make some observations by using the available data. Average percentages of loss for all regions are shown below:

Cause of loss	Beef cattle weighing over 500 pounds	Calves, birth to weaning
	Percent	
Predators	2	11
Disease	37	38
Theft	4	1
Other	57	50
All causes	100	100

Unspecified causes accounted for about one-half of all losses among both cattle and calves. The more important of these unspecified causes probably included bloat, inclement weather, calving difficulties, accidents, and straying. Others might have been disease and predators that could not be identified as such. It would be useful for the cattle industry to know the relative importance of these various causes.

The general category of disease was second in importance for loss of both cattle and calves. Again, a more detailed breakdown by cause would be useful. Disease seems to have been a greater problem for cattle in the Southeast and for calves in the West than in other regions (tables 3 and 4).

Predators contributed 11 percent to calf losses and 2 percent to cattle losses. The highest predator losses among calves were reported in the Southwest, 29 percent, and in the Southeast, 20 percent. Coyotes were the major predator in the Southwest, whereas in the Southeast dogs caused the most losses. Predation does not appear to have been a serious problem among cattle.

Theft of beef animals was minor for the survey population as a whole, especially among calves. However, in the West, 15 percent of all cattle losses were from this cause.

Farms Reporting Different Levels of Loss

Frequency distributions showing proportions of farms and ranches with different loss rates to various causes illustrate the extent of particular problems (tables 5 and 6). For example, with calves, 96 percent of producers had no loss to dogs, whereas 88 percent reported no deaths attributable to coyotes for the sample population. In contrast, only 23 percent reported no loss of any kind. This favorable situation is more likely to occur in smaller herds where, due to more intensive management practices, producers can go for a year with no loss. 1/

Losses to disease were reported as 31 percent and 35 percent, respectively, for farms raising beef cattle and calves. This does not mean that the remaining farms had no disease problems, for many diseases do not result in death.

Less control and supervision are possible with larger herds, as they usually graze in the more isolated range areas, which makes them prime targets for theft.

Calf losses to coyotes were suffered by 12 percent of the producers in the population. Most were in the 17 Western States, with 14 percent, 15 percent, and 27 percent, respectively, for the Great Plains, Southwest, and West. As with theft, operations reporting predation from coyotes were usually larger, and herds were grazed on open range.

1/ Part of the percentage reporting no losses to any cause may be due to nonresponse in the survey. In some instances it could not be determined from the questionnaires whether a blank represented a nonresponse or a report of no loss. In these situations, the questionnaire was assumed to represent no loss.

Table 3--Cattle losses, by cause, as a proportion of total losses, U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Cause	Southeast	North Central	Great Plains	Southwest	West	All regions
			Percent			
Dog	1	--	--	--	--	--
Coyote	--	0	--	1	1	--
Other predators	2	--	--	2	--	1
Total predators	3	--	1	4	1	2
Disease	44	31	30	42	34	37
Theft	4	1	1	3	15	4
Other 1/	49	67	68	51	50	57
All causes 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100

1/ Includes bloat, inclement weather, accidents, calving difficulties, straying, and unidentified causes of death.
2/ Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding to whole numbers.
-- = less than 0.5 percent.

Table 4--Calf losses before weaning, by cause, as a proportion of total losses, U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Cause	Southeast	North Central	Great Plains	Southwest	West	All regions
			Percent			
Dog	13	2	--	2	4	2
Coyote	3	4	4	22	9	8
Other predators	4	0	--	5	--	1
Total predators	20	6	5	29	13	11
Disease	42	41	36	33	48	38
Theft	2	1	--	2	2	1
Other	36	52	58	36	37	50
All causes	100	100	100	100	100	100

-- = less than 0.5 percent.

Table 5--Distribution of farms and ranches, based on cattle losses, by cause of loss, U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Cause and loss interval 1/	Southeast	North Central	Great Plains	Southwest	West	All regions
			Percent			
Dogs:						
0	99	100	100	99	98	99
0.1 - 5.0	1	--	--	1	2	1
5.1 -10.0	--	0	0	0	0	--
10.1 - over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coyotes:						
0	100	100	99	99	98	99
0.1 - 5.0	--	--	1	1	2	1
5.1 -10.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.1 - over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other predators:						
0	100	100	100	100	100	100
0.1 - 5.0	0	0	--	--	--	--
5.1 -10.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10.1 - over	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disease:						
0	66	82	72	65	60	69
0.1 - 5.0	24	12	25	28	37	25
5.1 -10.0	7	4	3	6	3	5
10.1 - over	3	2	--	1	0	1
Theft:						
0	96	99	96	97	90	96
0.1 - 5.0	3	1	4	3	9	4
5.1 -10.0	1	0	0	--	1	--
10.1 - over	--	0	0	--	0	0
Other causes:						
0	58	53	50	43	46	50
0.1 - 5.0	32	34	44	46	47	41
5.1 -10.0	7	9	5	9	7	7
10.1 - over	3	4	1	2	0	2
All causes:						
0	29	43	31	20	15	28
0.1 - 5.0	47	35	59	59	72	54
5.1 -10.0	17	16	9	17	12	14
10.1 - over	7	6	1	4	1	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

1/ Cattle over 500 pounds lost as a percentage of January 1 inventories.
-- = less than 0.5 percent.

Table 6--Distribution of farms and ranches based on calf losses before weaning, by cause of loss, U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Cause and loss interval 1/	Southeast	North Central	Great Plains	Southwest	West	All regions
			Percent			
Dogs:						
0	90	96	98	96	99	96
0.1 - 5.0	5	4	2	3	1	3
5.1 -10.0	4	0	0	1	0	1
10.1 - over	1	0	0	0	0	0
Coyotes:						
0	98	94	86	85	73	88
0.1 - 5.0	2	4	11	10	22	9
5.1 -10.0	0	2	3	3	4	3
10.1 - over	0	0	0	2	1	0
Other predators:						
0	96	100	99	96	98	98
0.1 - 5.0	2	0	1	3	2	2
5.1 -10.0	1	0	0	1	0	0
10.1 - over	1	0	0	0	0	0
Disease:						
0	71	74	58	74	46	65
0.1 - 5.0	13	10	18	16	21	16
5.1 -10.0	11	7	14	7	19	11
10.1 - over	6	9	10	3	14	8
Theft:						
0	99	99	98	97	95	98
0.1 - 5.0	1	1	2	1	4	1
5.1 -10.0	0	0	0	1	1	1
10.1 - over	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other causes:						
0	71	54	45	63	55	57
0.1 - 5.0	13	20	18	23	23	19
5.1 -10.0	9	16	20	10	12	14
10.1 - over	7	10	17	4	10	10
All causes:						
0	37	28	11	30	10	23
0.1 - 5.0	24	25	24	33	27	27
5.1 -10.0	25	30	33	26	32	28
10.1 - over	14	17	32	11	31	22
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

1/ Calves lost before weaning as a percentage of calves born.

Theft of beef cattle occurred on only 4 percent of farms in all regions. In the West, however, one-tenth of farms and ranches experienced this problem. There was a tendency for more theft among larger herds as illustrated by data for this region:

Herd size (head)	Percent of West region farms and ranches reporting theft of cattle
	Percent
Under 100	10
100 - 199	8
200 - 499	6
500 - 999	17
1,000 and over	32
All sizes	10

Causes of Reduced Feeder Calf Production

Full production from a beef breeding herd would require that each cow wean a calf. A significant loss in production occurred prior to birth as well as between birth and weaning. The total effect on feeder cattle production from losses during these two periods was as follows:

Losses	Five-region beef calf crop
	Percent
Before calving	22
Calving to weaning	4
Total	26

The data indicate that 85 percent of total feeder calf losses prior to weaning occurred before birth. The remaining 15 percent was after birth. This suggests a need for more attention to prenatal management of the cow herd if loss of production is to be minimized.

Numbers and Value of Cattle and Calf Losses

Estimated numbers of cattle and calves lost to all causes in the survey population totaled 2.7 million head (table 7). The value of these losses, based on 1975 national average prices for cattle and calves, is as follows:

Cause of loss	Value lost
	Million dollars
Predators	30.7
Disease	158.8
Theft	10.2
Other	212.6
Total	412.3

Disease and other unidentified causes contributed most heavily to financial loss among cattle and calves. Dollars lost to predators and theft were minor as compared with the total, but were large, nevertheless. Calves comprised most of the predator loss, $26.6 million. With theft, cattle loss contributed the greater value, $7.8 million.

HISTORICAL TRENDS IN CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES

Trends in losses of cattle and calves in the United States can be identified through examination of the 1975 data series published by USDA. However, numbers do not apply to beef cattle exclusively. Losses are part of the annual balance sheet of all cattle, which includes not only beef breeding stock and

Table 7--Number and value of cattle and calf losses, feeder cattle operations, U.S. beef cattle regions, 1975

Cause of loss	Lost 1/			Value of losses 2/		
	Cattle	Calves	Total	Cattle	Calves	Total
	1,000 head			1,000 dollars		
Predators	19	227	246	4,123	26,559	30,682
Disease	365	680	1,045	79,205	79,560	158,765
Theft	36	20	56	7,812	2,340	10,152
Other	536	823	1,359	116,312	96,291	212,603
Total	956	1,750	2,706	207,452	204,750	412,202

1/ Total cattle and calf inventory numbers used in calculating losses are shown in appendix table 2.

2/ Cattle are valued at $217 and calves at $117 per head. Weights are assumed to be 1,000 pounds, 650 pounds, and 450 pounds for mature cattle, yearlings, and calves, respectively. (Prices are based on numbers for 1974 published in Livestock and Meat Statistics, Supplement for 1976, Stat. Bul. No. 522, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., June 1977.)

feeder cattle on farms and ranches but also dairy cattle and cattle on feed for the slaughter market. Losses of cattle will include all three types. Calf loss, which is for calves between birth and 500 pounds, may be more representative of beef calves, as dairy calves, the one other type included, comprise only 15-20 percent of the total.

Loss rates calculated from published USDA data are not directly comparable to the survey results. Populations sampled were different. In addition to the differences indicated above, the survey population excluded herds of less than 20 head, considered only calf losses up to weaning time, and included yearling heifers in the breeding herd that were expected to calve, for the first time, during the year.

Cattle Loss Trends

From 1950 to 1975, USDA-published cattle loss data exhibited only minor trends, when measured as a percentage of January 1 inventories (figure 2). A slight decrease in losses occurred through 1971. From 1972 to 1975, there was a slight upward movement. For the entire period, losses ranged from 1.4 to 1.9 percent of January 1 inventories, with an average of 1.7 percent.

A division of the United States into 17 Western States, primarily the range area of the country, and 31 other States provides a basis for considering broad regional differences in losses (table 8). Data are for 1962 to 1975. Cattle losses in the 17 Western States were consistently lower on a percentage basis than in the other States, averaging 1.4 percent and 1.7 percent, respectively, for the entire period. These percentages may not have reflected real regional differences in beef cow and feeder cattle losses, as inventories included cattle on feed for the slaughter market. Losses among this type of cattle were usually low, less than 1.0 percent. More than one-half of fed cattle marketings are from the 17 Western States--about 75 percent in 1975. This would tend to give lower loss rates in the Western States than in the 31 other States.

Calf Loss Trends

Calf loss rates since 1950, measured as a percentage of calf crop, showed a slightly downward trend through 1968, from 6.6 percent in 1950 to 5.6 percent in 1968 (fig. 2). After 1968, losses rose rapidly to a high of 9.1 percent in 1975. Reasons for this 62 percent increase in calf losses in a 7-year period cannot be explained from the available data. The average loss for 1950 to 1975 was 6.4 percent.

There are differences in loss rates between the 17 Western States and the other States. For the period 1962-75, average losses were 5.7 percent and 7.4 percent respectively, for the two regions. The average increase in loss rates was higher in the 17 Western States than in the other States--4.0 percent per year as compared with 3.0 percent per year. Data limitations preclude an analysis of these increased loss rates in recent years. However, expanding cattle inventories during this time may have resulted in higher losses, as producers enlarged herds beyond levels of optimum management of calves. Tables 9 and 10 show cattle and calf losses since 1950 and the estimated number of cattle and calves in the survey population.

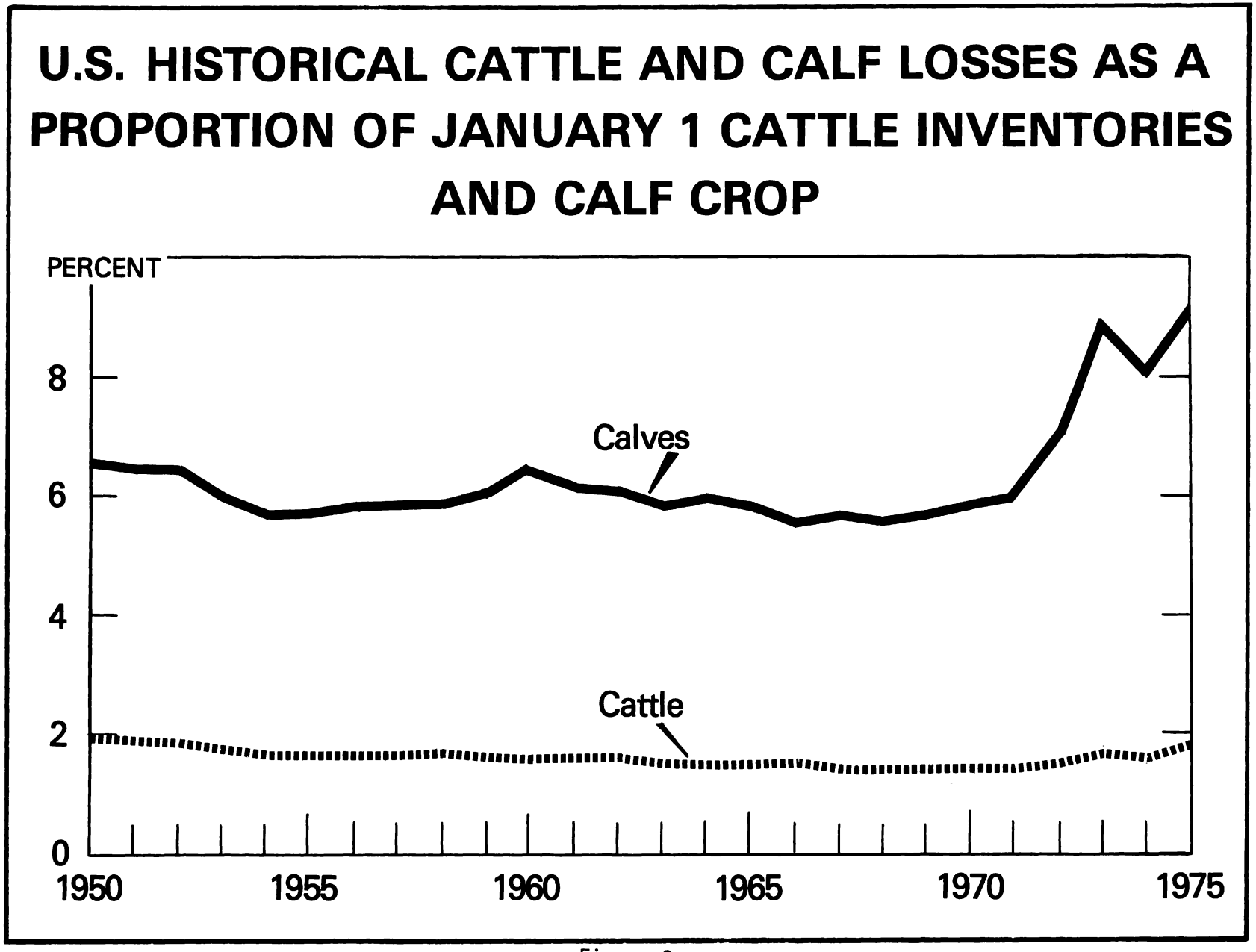
U.S. HISTORICAL CATTLE AND CALF LOSSES AS A PROPORTION OF JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORIES AND CALF CROP
PERCENT
8
6
4
2
0
Calves
Cattle
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1975

Figure 2

Table 8--Cattle and calf losses for major subdivisons of the United States, 1962-75

Year	Cattle losses		Calf losses	
	17 Western States	Other States	17 Western States	Other States
	Percent			
1962	1.4	1.7	4.8	7.5
1963	1.3	1.7	5.1	6.5
1964	1.3	1.6	5.5	6.5
1965	1.4	1.6	5.3	6.5
1966	1.3	1.7	4.7	6.4
1967	1.2	1.6	4.9	6.6
1968	1.2	1.6	4.7	6.6
1969	1.3	1.5	4.9	6.6
1970	1.3	1.5	4.9	6.9
1971	1.3	1.6	5.1	6.9
1972	1.4	1.6	5.8	8.5
1973	1.6	1.8	8.5	9.4
1974	1.3	1.8	7.2	9.0
1975	1.7	1.9	8.5	9.7
Ave.	1.4	1.7	5.7	7.4

Source: Livestock and Meat Statistics (various issues), U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., in cooperation with Stat. Rptg. Serv., and Agr. Mktg. Serv.

Table 9--Estimated cattle and calf inventories in survey population, 1975

Class	South-east	North Central	Great Plains	South-west	West	All regions
	1,000 head					
Cattle 1/	11,239	8,809	9,000	11,521	4,813	45,382
Calves 2/	7,499	5,446	7,001	8,439	2,985	31,370

1/ January 1 inventory of beef cattle over 500 pounds which includes cows that have calved, replacement heifers, bulls, and feeder steers and heifers still on the farms and ranches.
2/ Beef calves born alive.

Source: Estimated from numbers reported in the field survey and from published numbers in Livestock and Meat Statistics, Supplement for 1975, Stat. Bull. No. 522, U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., June 1976.

Table 10--Cattle and calf losses, United States, 1950-75

Year	Jan. 1 cattle inventory	Calf crop	Deaths		Percentage loss	
			Cattle	Calves	Cattle	Calves
		1,000 head			Percent	
1950	77,963	34,899	1,445	2,297	1.9	6.6
1951	82,083	35,825	1,537	2,326	1.9	6.5
1952	88,072	38,273	1,603	2,431	1.8	6.4
1953	94,241	41,261	1,573	2,487	1.7	6.0
1954	95,679	42,601	1,574	2,489	1.6	5.8
1955	96,592	42,112	1,590	2,462	1.6	5.8
1956	95,900	41,376	1,487	2,425	1.6	5.9
1957	92,860	39,905	1,446	2,355	1.6	5.9
1958	91,176	38,860	1,512	2,298	1.7	5.9
1959	93,322	38,938	1,501	2,375	1.6	6.1
1960	96,236	39,355	1,567	2,533	1.6	6.4
1961	97,700	40,180	1,532	2,486	1.6	6.2
1962	100,369	41,441	1,583	2,342	1.6	6.1
1963	104,448	42,268	1,560	2,480	1.5	5.9
1964	107,903	43,809	1,595	2,637	1.5	6.0
1965	109,000	43,928	1,641	2,607	1.5	5.9
1966	108,862	43,537	1,625	2,424	1.5	5.6
1967	108,783	43,803	1,533	2,512	1.4	5.7
1968	109,371	44,315	1,527	2,485	1.4	5.6
1969	110,015	45,177	1,532	2,591	1.4	5.7
1970	112,369	45,871	1,583	2,714	1.4	5.9
1971	114,578	46,738	1,634	2,808	1.4	6.0
1972	117,862	47,682	1,780	3,346	1.5	7.0
1973	121,539	49,194	2,099	4,388	1.7	8.9
1974	127,788	50,873	2,006	4,104	1.6	8.1
1975	132,028	50,183	2,396	4,596	1.8	9.1

Source: Livestock and Meat Statistics (various issues), U.S. Dept. Agr., Econ. Res. Serv., in cooperation with Stat. Rptg. Serv., and Agr. Mktg. Serv.

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